

a/ of U.S. Application No. 09/059,303, filed 04/14/1998 (now Abandoned), U.S. Application No. 09/059,304, filed 04/14/1998 (now Abandoned), and U.S. Application No. 09/059,307, filed 04/14/1998 (now Abandoned); and 3) claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/109,506, filed 11/23/1998.

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants claim priority and indicate the applications from which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and §120. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or '1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-220-4207 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

19 Nov 01



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